

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/648,998

Examiner

Christopher Upton

Applicant(s)

DOBIE ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed 8/27/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

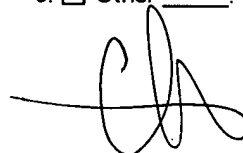
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



CHRISTOPHER UPTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John McGonagle on February 7, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 8, after "treatment means", -- providing nitrification -- has been inserted.

In claim 5, line 13, after "treatment means", -- providing nitrification -- has been inserted.

In claim 9, line 15, after "treatment means", -- providing nitrification -- has been inserted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CU' with a stylized flourish.

CHRISTOPHER UPTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 1724

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The recitation of a septic tank of the structure recited with a discharge to a secondary treatment system which recycles back to the rear of the septic tank, wherein a denitrification media of a plurality of synthetic cords having a specific gravity less than that of the effluent is attached to the bottom of the septic tank patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record.

The closest prior art, Coulthard, discloses a media of synthetic cords floating in the liquid to be treated, but the device is an anaerobic digester of different structure than that of the septic tank recited in the instant claims, the cords are attached to a liquid distributor, and the device does not discharge to a secondary (biological) treatment system with recycle, but rather only to a separating collector.

Serfling also discloses a media of floating synthetic cords, but these are in an aerated pond with floating aquatic plants, not in a septic tank of the structure claimed. Serfling also does not disclose discharge to a secondary treatment system with recycle.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."



CHRISTOPHER UPTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER